

**Air Pollution Control Advisory Council Meeting**  
**September 7, 2000 – 2:05 p.m. –3:10 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 111 of the Metcalf Building**  
**Department of Environmental Quality**

**Attendees**

Council Members

Diane Lorenzen, Chemical Engineering  
David Noell, Labor  
Dean Johnson , Fuel Industry  
Mike Machler, Meteorologist  
Kathy Harris, Urban Planning

Other Attendees

Gail Abercrombie, Montana Petroleum Assoc.  
Don Allen, Western Env. Trade Assoc.  
Dexter Busby, Montana Refining Company  
Deb Wolfe, DEQ  
Chuck Homer, DEQ  
Mike Field, DEQ  
Elton Erp, DEQ  
Bob Martin, DEQ  
Bob Habeck, DEQ  
Jeff Blend, DEQ

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**1. Call to Order – Establish a Quorum.** Chairman **Diane Lorenzen** called the Air Pollution Control Advisory Meeting (APCAC) to order at 2:05 p.m. in Conference Room 111 of the Metcalf Building in Helena, Montana, with a quorum present (Ed. Note: To establish a quorum, a majority of six members is needed. Reference: MCA 2-15-122 (8)). Absent were Cliff Cox, Dennis Alexander, Mitchell Leu, Linda Dworak, and Brad Black.

- a) **Review of 6/28/00 minutes:** Mr. Noell moved and Mr. Machler seconded the acceptance of the 6/28/00 minutes. Motion carried.
- b) **Unfinished Council Business: None.**
- c) **Member Reports to Council:** Mr. Johnson inquired about the Clean Air Act Advisory Council's (CAAAC) proposed budget. Mr. Homer said it is still in the preparatory stage. He said when it is approved an impact summary will be prepared and probably presented to the CAAAC members in November. His section is planning a broad description of the last biennium appropriation, and the one proposed for the next biennium. If more detail is desired, please let him know.

**2. Housekeeping Remarks:** Mr. Habeck suggested that Chairman Lorenzen call nonattending members to apprise their interest in remaining members. He said he would also continue to call absent members.

**3. Discussion Items:**

**a) EPA Proposed Sulfur in Diesel Fuel Rule.**

Mr. Habeck drew attention to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) letter and attachment requesting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delay the closing of the comment period on this docket. This was in response to this committee's recommendation that the department ask EPA to extend the comment period. This letter and attachment are Exhibit 1 of the minutes. Jeff Blend of DEQ was the principal author. The comment period closed on August 14 and the comment period was not extended. In a call to Mr. Habeck, Mr. Cox said he had planned to bring testimony on off-road diesel, but was unable to be present.

Mr. Jeff Blend was present to answer any questions.

Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation to the department for sending in the comments. He said the letter and comments were well written.

Mr. Busby of the Montana Refining Company, Black Eagle, Montana, said several western governors were putting together a letter to EPA on this subject.

The EPA website to check for more information is [www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel.htm](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel.htm).

**b) Summer 2000 Wildfires—DEQ's Response.**

Exhibit 2 of the minutes is a copy of the letter from Dr. Mike Spence, State Medical Officer, written on August 23, 2000, on pertinent information on long-term effects from smoke exposure. This exhibit also has a visibility chart indicating what to do and expect at different visibility ranges.

Exhibit 3 of the minutes contains two tables "State and Local Air Pollution Action Stages for PM-10" and "Montana Wildfire Season 2000, PM-10 TEOM Data." John Coefield and his section at Monitoring and Data Management Bureau, Planning Prevention and Assistance Division (PPAD), DEQ, prepared the Montana Wildfire Table, which has data for July, August and through the fourth day of September. Mr. Habeck highlighted the thirteen exceedances of the PM-10 24-hour standard on this table. Mr. Habeck said DEQ typically looks for a 350-microgram reading before initial action is taken. However, DEQ responded with public health advisories at much lower microgram concentrations. He said it was hard to predict – the hourly rate might be high but when averaged over the 24-hour period would not exceed 350 micrograms. Mr. Habeck said Mr. Coefield and his section had put together a website on the fires to keep people alerted to get health advisories, and posted the numbers so people would take action. A notice was faxed to county health departments alerting them to this website. Mr. Habeck said "hits" on the website were very high and included many from out-of-state. In response to a question of why Helena had so few exceedances as there were so many very "smoky" days, Mr. Habeck said wild fire as a combustion source generally produces finer particulate – more in the 2.5 PM range. He said these PM-2.5 numbers were not yet available – but would be put in similar tables when they were. The 2.5 PM filters are collected and sent to a laboratory.

With Mike Field's assistance, Mr. Habeck demonstrated the website to the members. He said the site contained a lot of good information and as more people used the site there were a lot fewer phone calls to DEQ.

In response to a question about the cost of the website, Mr. Erp said Kathy Irish took care of updating the webpage and it took about 1.5 hours a day. John Coefield did the narrative and spent approximately 1.5 hours a day. Pictures on the webpage had been taken by Mr. Habeck and Mr. Field and provided at no charge.

Mr. Habeck said with PM-10 air pollution rules, there was one permitted exceedance per year averaged over three years, which would be three exceedances. If a fourth exceedance comes up, it becomes a violation. EPA has made allowances to remove natural events and exceedances from these natural events from the data. The EPA Administrator has the ability to not include these for purposes of designation of attainment. Mr. Habeck said this winter he plans to formulate a Natural Events Action Plan which will require the administration to look at these values, asterisk them in the data base so they will not be included for purposes of designation. Mr. Habeck said DEQ will also be critiquing the program – asking what was good about the approach, what more could have been done to help county health departments and the public, and when should this type of activity be instituted -- every year (even in a marginal fire year), just for exceptional fire seasons, or also for volcanoes and winter inversions?

Mr. Erp said the group might think about the respective role of DEQ in addressing these kinds of events as opposed to some other state agency. He said there didn't always seem to be a clear mandate. Mr. Erp said he was proud of the way DEQ responded but it would be better to be in a proactive position as opposed to simply responding.

Mr. Homer responded to a question about the 1988 fires that they used press releases then and this was also true for the volcano eruption in 1980.

Mr. Erp said they had many requests for additional monitoring – real time monitoring. He said county health departments were frustrated that DEQ couldn't do this for them. Ms. Lorenzen pointed out that the visibility table would trigger warnings quicker and is real time – you can see for yourself. There were not nearly as many PM-10 exceedances as there were really bad days so the visibility chart was the better alert mechanism.

Also included as a handout were “Wildfire Smoke and Your Health” (U.S. Forest Service)– Exhibit 4 of the minutes and “Tips to Reduce Smoke Exposure and Impacts for the Firefighter” (prepared by A. Acheson and R. Ottmar) – Exhibit 5 of the minutes.

#### **4. Rulemaking Action Items:**

##### **a) Cascade County Rule Revisions. Bob Martin**

Mr. Martin said he had been assisting Cascade County in revising their county program. He said there were not many substantial revisions: the major source open burning permit rule was removed; some open burning definitions were revised; an ambient air definition was added; a definition of control equipment was revised; a definition of public nuisance was revised; some inaccurate dates in the special burning permit were corrected; and a special burning period was added in the minor open burning source requirements. All of the appropriate public hearings were held in the municipalities and city governments in Cascade County. The revised program has been approved in Cascade County. The county will present it to the Board at next week's meeting for approval.

In response to a question, Mr. Martin said Cascade County has a bare bones, basic air pollution control program.

#### **5. Confirmed next meeting date for November 9, 2000, at 2 p.m. (a Thursday).**

Mr. Machler moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn. All members were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Ed. Note: As Mr. Johnson mentioned, MCA 2-15-122 (7) requires advisory councils to meet in Helena. An advisory council may not meet outside Helena without the express prior authorization of the creating authority. The Director of DEQ would be the authorizing agent.